

**NEW GAHNIA FORST. & FORST. F. FOODPLANT RECORDS  
FOR THREE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN SKIPPERS  
(LEPIDOPTERA: HESPERIIDAE)**

Matthew R. Williams

Department of Conservation and Land Management, 50 Hayman Road, Como, W.A.,  
6152

**Abstract**

The larval foodplants of *Hesperilla donnysa albina* Waterhouse, *Hesperilla chrysotricha chrysotricha* (Meyrick and Lower) and *Antipodia atralba anaces* (Waterhouse) are recorded. They are all species of *Gahnia*.

**Observations and Discussion**

During 1989/90, I collected larvae and pupae of *Hesperilla donnysa albina* and *Hesperilla chrysotricha chrysotricha*, and eggs, larvae and pupae of *Antipodia atralba anaces*. The larval foodplants for each of these species are set out below. The life histories of other races of each species have been previously recorded (Fisher 1978, 1985; Common and Waterhouse 1981; Atkins 1984).

Voucher specimens are lodged in the Insectary, Department of Conservation and Land Management, 50 Hayman Road, Como, Western Australia.

***Hesperilla donnysa albina***

The larval foodplant near Lake Forrestdale, in southern suburban Perth, is *Gahnia trifida* Labill. At Lesmurdie (a Perth suburb) the larval foodplant is *Gahnia decomposita* (R.Br.) Benth. A previous record from Fremantle refers simply to "a *Gahnia*" (Common and Waterhouse 1981).

***Hesperilla chrysotricha chrysotricha***

Common and Waterhouse (1981) state that the larvae "feed on *Gahnia trifida* and, in the Stirling Range, a large tough *Gahnia*". At Lesmurdie and at Manjimup, larvae and pupae were taken on *Gahnia decomposita*. Pupae taken at these locations were black, not dark brown as reported for other subspecies (Common and Waterhouse 1981; Fisher 1978).

The large, tough *Gahnia* sp. in the Stirling Range could be either *G. decomposita* or *G. deusta* (G. Keighery, pers. comm.). However, *G. deusta* is apparently not utilised by this species in South Australia (Fisher 1978, 1985). *G. decomposita* is therefore likely to be the foodplant of *H. c. chrysotricha* in the Stirling Range.

***Antipodia atralba anaces***

The foodplant at Lesmurdie is *Gahnia lanigera* (R.Br.) Benth.; the same species recorded for *A. a. anapus* (Waterhouse) and *A. a.*

*dactyliota* (Meyrick) (Atkins 1984). *G. lanigera* was previously unrecorded in the Perth region (S. Patrick pers. comm.).

### Acknowledgements

Greg Keighery of the Department of Conservation and Land Management and Sue Patrick of the Western Australian State Herbarium assisted in the identification of the plant specimens.

### References

- ATKINS, A. 1984. A new genus *Antipodia* (Lepidoptera: Hesperiiidae: Trapezitinae) with comments on its biology and relationships. *Australian Entomological Magazine* 11: 45-48.
- COMMON, I.F.B. and WATERHOUSE, D.F. 1981. *Butterflies of Australia*. Pp. xiv + 682. Angus and Robertson, Sydney.
- FISHER, R.H. 1978. *Butterflies of South Australia*, 272 pp. Government Printer, South Australia.
- FISHER, R.H. 1985. Butterflies (Lepidoptera: Hesperioidea, Papilionoidea) of Kangaroo Island, South Australia. *Australian Entomological Magazine* 12: 1-8.